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**MORE STATELY MANSIONS
Mayan Revelation Number 184
SCAFFOLDING**

Something to Stand On
The Timbers
The Conscious Tools of Faith
The Unconscious Tools of Faith

In the Mind's Eye
Realize and Believe
The View from Above
Affirmation

Beloved Centurion:

This is the second lesson in this series, MORE STATELY MANSIONS. Our first lesson had to do with FOUNDATIONS, and now we come to SCAFFOLDING.

When we see a building in the first stages of construction, we all know how the scaffolding looks, but I doubt if one out of a hundred stops to think about its importance. It is indispensable. What scaffolding is to the construction of a building, Faith and Ideals are to the building of a life.

An architect must have his ideas before he begins his construction. A life must have its ideals, must know where it wants to go and what it wants to attain, and must have the faith to know it can be done.

The scaffolding in building a life needs Ideals and Faith. All of the scaffolding falls and becomes a ruined edifice for lack of one single word - Faith.

Look again at the picture on the front page of this lesson, the cathedral with its many towers, so high they seem to be reaching up heavenward. Can you imagine the scaffolding that was necessary to construct such a magnificent building? Can you imagine the faith these architects must have had - first the ideal, which was in their minds, then the faith that it could be done. But, without the scaffolding, it would have been an impossibility.

As in building, so it is with our lives, we need the scaffolding.

The great majority of people find it difficult to have confidence in themselves or the faith that they can accomplish their aim in life; the faith that they will be given the ability to do what they would like to do.

One of the great attributes of Christopher Columbus was not so much that he discovered America, but that he started out to look for it on the strength of his opinion. He had the faith that he could do it and he did, with many forces and many opinions against him. He was scoffed at by unbelievers, but nothing deterred him. Everything that we do in life works toward the confirmation of our faith.

When you think of something you desire greatly to accomplish, but some small voice within you tells you it cannot be done, think of the wonderful works of Helen Keller, born dumb, deaf and blind. Through sheer faith she became a writer and one of the world's great examples because of an ideal in the mind of this great woman, an ideal which she had set as her goal with the faith to accomplish it.

Oh yes, my Beloved Centurion, there is so much you can do toward building a greater life, and the greatest of these is to acquire the faith that nothing is impossible if it is good, and if you really and earnestly have made your ideal your goal.

We all have dreams of what we wish to have, be or do, and the high standards which we set, the good resolutions we form, help us to a higher and better life.

Never criticize a person when he or she seems to be daydreaming. Many of our great inventions came from persons who first had a dream of what they wanted to build.

Do not become discouraged, dear student, ever. As usual, we now begin our study with the following prayer:

PRAYER

Help me, Heavenly Father, always to
keep a sure place whereon I may stand
while I build the structure of my
more stately mansion of life. Amen.

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888 PART ONE 888

Without something of the kind, one might build for a day but he could not build for the ages. There are temporary things that pass away entirely, and there are those that pass away after having helped produce something abiding. Scaffolding is the latter.

Scaffolding lumber is rough and cheap, but it is a step toward something of better appearance and quality. It does not need to look very well, yet anything that is a step toward something better has a certain beauty of its own. It has at least the beauty of strength or it would not serve its purpose well. It indicates in a general way the size and shape of what is to come. It is only a step on the way, but how can one take the second step toward anything till after he has taken the first?

The first stage of construction is an idea in a mind, then a plan on paper, then the rough form of that mental picture in plain lumber on which workmen stand. Finally comes the finished building aimed at in all the earlier stages.

A building planned by an architect is bound to be an image of some part of

his inner life and personal experience. The same is true, of course, of a projected human life. What it can or cannot be depends very much on the kind of person the planner is. Its proportions and quality depend on the ideals he cherishes and the purposes by which he is governed. A building is sure to conform to the scaffolding on which the workmen stood while it was built.

A plan alone, however, is a dead thing, and unused scaffolding is futile. The undertaking must be vitalized with faith and purpose. When Faith says to the builder, "You can do it", and he replies, "I believe I can", it begins to come to life. The substance of things hoped for begins to appear.

Such as these are the boards on which we stand while we construct the new life. They make possible the more stately mansion and each part of it, then they are ready to be used for something else, and some day for a yet more stately mansion. Scaffolding there must be, but the lumber can be used over and over.

*** PART TWO ***

* * * * * * * * * We have said that ideals and faith are the timbers of which
* * the scaffolding for life building is made, and of course
* THE TIMBERS * their many by-products are included. Let us think first of
* * ideals, and try to define them in mind. What are they, and
* * * * * * * * * how do they come to be? They are simply ideas, or ideal
tailor shop of life. images of what we aspire to. They are the patterns in the
They can lie idle, or they can be used to determine the form
of something actual. They are advance images of possibilities that can be realized.

From one's ideals is fashioned his philosophy of life, or his working plan. Builder of the house of life, have you one, and if so what is it like? Your philosophy of life is the circle within which you will go anywhere, but outside of which you will not venture. Do your aspirations lie within your philosophy of life? Your achievements will, and its quality will be theirs.

Since one's philosophy of life depends on his ideals it is a part of what he must stand on as he works. Ideals in turn are the boundaries of what one holds desirable and right. They are composite forms of what one's life is becoming and will become in action and achievement. To improve what one will be and do in the future, he must improve them.

In other words, they are the scaffolding boards on which one stands and walks about while he builds his visible life. They keep him from falling, hold him within reach of his work, guide his movements, and determine the extent and quality of his labor; so when his work is done it will be the incarnation of an idea, a word made flesh.

Faith is a more definite and active thing. Where ideals are defining limits, faith is a power operating wherever it is released. It has a very definite part to play, and it has the daring of high places. It is both a propulsive and a creative force. It prevents the builder from thinking the proposed structure is too high, or too large, or too costly, to complete. If the builder disregards it and continues

to do so he is like a workman falling from his scaffolding. A good life builder sometimes walks on faith when there is nothing else to hold him up.

With these two elements serving as supports to hold the builder to his work while he erects his more stately mansion he can produce almost any size or grade of structure he aspires to and has the will and courage to keep trying to complete. They will do the same for him in meeting the requirements and possibilities of any future day. They hold us within the reach of the help of God, and that surpasses all.

When your present task is done and your scaffolding of ideals and faith are no longer required for it, never think their work is done. Cling to them as the priceless possessions they are. You will need them for efforts, whether small or large, throughout your earthly life. They are not harmed by use. On the contrary, the more they are used the stronger and more effective they become.

PART THREE

All this is part of the scaffolding on which we stand while we work. Even though it is invisible we are more or less conscious of it. We know when we call upon it, and we can feel it surging to our support. One must keep a secure footing on his scaffolding. If he misses the board, or steps on a loose one, achievement halts and danger begins.

A worker has to make friends even with his tools and the materials he uses. There as everywhere else in life, only the right relationship is effective, or even safe. Scaffolding helps only as long as we use it rightly. It is the same with any instrumentality we use.

The tools to which we refer now are those of the conscious mind, the functioning of the physical brain cells plus the spiritual powers and forces we have learned to recognize and use. There are many things we can do consciously to cultivate character, understanding, and the will to do what we need to do. They are the tools of faith and hope, and are therefore consecrated ones.

The amount, nature, and quality of what these tools accomplish depends on the amount of interest and kind of attention the conscious mind gives them. Attention does much to make or unmake us. We remember well only that to which we give our attention. We do well only that on which we keep it centered. The most skilled

and capable person would do only mediocre work if he failed to put his mind to it and keep it there. Attention is a kind of a booster battery that steps up any ability we are using.

That is one of the most important secrets of doing one's best. He can do it only when he is alerted to it and keeps that alertness sustained by attention. Unless interest is already awakened, it must be awakened, and if it has been functioning and is flagging, it needs renewing, like a motor with some of the cylinders missing for lack of the enlivening spark. Do not let discouragement make you careless or allow so important a task to grow humdrum. Never lose heart. Keep the spirit alerted. Guard your creativeness against the devastation of fatigue.

Construction work well executed in spots and poorly done in others proclaims to all and sundry that it was put together by an inconstant builder, one whose conscious mind was not under steady and even control. Zeal is like an automatic watch. It is automatic only if you keep in motion enough to prod the self-winding pendulum into sufficient action. In one way or another, it is you who has to wind it. You are also the one who has to keep your zeal wound up.

We are told to put our shoulders to the wheel. That is good advice, but more is required. We have also to keep our shoulders to the wheel, but we have first of all to put our minds to our shoulders.

PART FOUR

There are other forces that work unconsciously for the realization of what faith undertakes. They do it while we are awake, but thinking of something else altogether. They even do it while we are asleep, consciously thinking of nothing. They clarify confusions, solve problems, go forward with plans, and even realize desires and manifest them on the visible plane, giving subduing the evidence of things not seen.

We know by much competent testimony and as much experience as we have opened the way to have, that something behind the physical consciousness takes hold of an accepted challenge of faith and starts it down an assembly line of concentrated forces toward fulfillment, with our own attention and cooperation, of course. In every case we must do our part, probably first.

One may have been harboring for months or years the shadow presence of a wish or desire, and suddenly find the realization of it within his reach or standing complete before him. The test of practice is the most conclusive one in anything. There is no appeal from the fact that a thing actually happens. Therefore, this idea is not a vagary but a fact. It is being more widely recognized all the time. We do not see it, but we see what it does. The voice of experience from both the present and the past is raised to bear testimony to it. Through it we hold access to the possibilities of all good.

It appears from time to time throughout the Bible, and especially in the New

Testament after Jesus had so clearly opened up the mystic approach to humankind. Definitely and repeatedly He taught that all things are possible to those who believe. St. Paul took up the strain and declared that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. He made it plain that we also share the privilege by his assurance that all things are ours.

One has but to take his stand, give a positive answer to the challenge of faith, commit his needs in prayer and desire, and let the unfailing powers within and without start the divine creative processes going in his life. He can then turn his attention to other things. They will take care of themselves - if he knows how to be patient and wait. Impatience can spoil it all.

Whatever has its blessings, however, may also have its perils. In the silence of our thought lives we commit all kinds of things all the time, just by thinking of them or wanting them, to these so-called subconscious processes. We do it without even realizing it, and they promptly begin to become facts that we may or may not like. Have a care what you admit to your mind. It may have dynamite in it.

The conscious mind works the daytime shift, but this powerful, silent inner mind never stops, always turning out results according to what we have committed to it, intentionally or not. What a marvelous tool it is, and how careful we need to be to use it only for good!

❀❀❀ PART FIVE ❀❀❀

"Well, Doctor, can you imagine the new building standing there with students coming and going?" asked a passing faculty member. "Yes, indeed", replied the president. "I can see it in my mind's eye." For months he had been doing exactly that as he talked with donors, architects, and builders. To anyone passing by the space there at the corner of the campus was vacant, but for him there was a fine white stone building standing there, just as it would be later in the year when the builders were through.

The ground was broken, and soon construction began. Months later a beautiful new library building, modern in every detail for that time, stood there. A little later it was dedicated and opened for use. For fifty years it served its purpose, and during that time the white-haired man who had been the young president was laid to rest under the pines on the hill. Still the material realization of the picture he had seen in his mind's eye that February day stood there before passing student generations. It never lost its beauty, but its finely arranged and well planned accommodations became out of date, and as the school grew its library

needs entirely outgrew the one-time entirely adequate building. Another president, one of many who had come and gone, led in the plans for a new, larger, up to date structure. In time on another part of the campus stood a building he in turn had seen in his mind's eye, as Faith had brought another idea to materialization.

What was to be done with the white stone building once so new and now so old? That question was turned over in the mind of a man who had been a student there when the old library was built. Then a picture formed in his mind's eye, the picture of an adequate and up to date fine arts building to house both instruction and exhibits of both permanent and borrowed works of paintings and sculpture. He had become a wealthy man. He and his wife had made a number of important benefactions. Now they proposed to effect the transformation of the building and equip it for its new role.

Today both buildings are in service because three men saw them and their possibilities in their minds' eyes. Young men and women come and go, studying and working in each, in their turn shaping ideas and ideals in their minds' eyes. Out of it Faith will see new possibilities for the future. The chain reaction will go on. So the human race keeps building scaffoldings and from them building something still newer and better.

Each one of us stands somewhere on a ladder or a rough board, building some kind of an addition to life. That is about the way it works. That is how the real history of a people is made.

§§§ PART SIX §§§

The scaffolding that once was there did not make itself, nor did it come about by chance. It was there because some mind's eye first saw there the dream toward the realization of which it was a step. It was there not as an end within itself, but as a means to the permanent structure that was to stand after it should be removed. Even the builder has gone his way, perhaps to the end of his earthly life. We have to be willing to be the means to something that will outlast us.

All deeds and accomplishment have about the same kind of a history. Each grows from an idea as an oak grows from an acorn; but like an acorn the idea had life and constructive power in it. It had the power not only to be, but to become; and between the two there can be a vast difference. That is the secret of creation, the key to the existence of the universe. From such ideas, forged into ideals and charged with purpose the earth, the universe, and everything in them, came.

Many ideas have lived but never matured into realities. They died before

they had a chance to develop into lasting patterns. That is one of the tragedies of time. A creative idea dies and its story is never told, unless someone takes it seriously enough to start building, unless Faith gets someone to believe in it. The world loses more that way than it can ever know. So do possible creators.

A field may be ever so fertile, but it will produce nothing unless someone believes he can grow a crop there and develops enthusiasm enough to try. Nothing ever even begins to stand forth finished until Faith tells someone he can do it, and he believes it. A great man caught a glimpse of all this loss one night as he walked the streets, and wrote when he got home that he did not wonder at what men suffered, but he wondered often at what they lost.

The great names in history are those of people who believed in the possibility of something enough to try to bring it to pass. Where now are the mockers who ridiculed them and insisted that it could not be done? Faith always succeeds. Incredulity fails even before it begins to try.

The scaffolding of what we propose to build gives us confidence. Empty space may look ever so doubtful, but when we mount the scaffolding and look about us we begin to get a feeling of possibility. We are conscious that a start has been made, and we get the feeling that we can go on from there. It becomes a kind of challenge and if we are builders at all, something within us answers it. We have to have a great deal of this as we proceed, especially at the start. From the viewpoint of idealism and faith, no good thing seems impossible.

PART SEVEN

In other words, do not stifle the meaning of what life can be for you by always looking at it from the ground. Get the point of view of faith, and the bigness of it will not discourage you. You built your life as it is. You know you can do better now, so dare make the attempt. You are older and more experienced. You are braver, and the need is greater. Undertake, then, the best of which you can conceive, for that is really the measure of your ability.

Remember that the possibility is always as great as the need. Providence does not joke with us. God does not show us pretty pictures, then snatch them from us, nor does He mock us with the idea that our capacities are greater than they are. Let what you can visualize be the measure of your plans, for it is the measure of your abilities. Life is not a mocker. Fate does not deride us. Destiny plays no tricks. What we need we can get, and what we should do we can do. Get up where you can look down on the task. Then you will see it whole and can really measure

your capability by it. Measure your daring by it also.

Stop questioning the idea that faith can move mountains and try it once. Only try it on something more important than moving a mountain, like your inertia and indecision, or any barrier that stands between you and your best. No power has ever been discovered that can compare with that of Faith. With it you can build infinitely more than all the hydrogen bombs can ever destroy. It is your key, your solution, your answer, and your victory.

Study the lives of people who have made the most of their possibilities. You will find that most of them started from situations in which the outlook was very gloomy and discouraging. Few great things have ever been handed anyone on a silver platter, and those so gained have usually tarnished, failed of their promises or have been lost. Few who have succeeded have had it easy. Most have had to get above their problems and look down. They would have been frightened away if they had stood on the ground and looked at their full height and size.

Your life can be what it needs to be if you will have the courage and faith to try. You can have the powers and qualities of which you dream if you will vitalize that dream with confidence and follow through with real effort.

If you run low on faith, check your generator.

From the level ground you can only see the forbidding magnitude of the task. You need a mountaintop, and lacking a mountaintop, a scaffolding of idealism and faith will serve the purpose very well. Many of the great Bible events took place on mountaintops. You have a great thing to do. Why not build your own mountaintop?



AFFIRMATION

It takes money to build a house, but it takes faith to build a life. I have that faith, and drawing on the infinite supply, I will always have enough.

